

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 2, 3, and 4. These sheets, which include Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4, replace the original sheets including Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-14 and 16 are now pending in the present application. Claims 10 and 15 have been canceled by this Response. Claims 1-9 and 11-14 are amended by this Response. Claim 16 had been added.

Drawings

The Examiner objects to Figs. 2, 3, and 4 because the unlabeled rectangular boxes shown in the drawings should be provided with descriptive text labels. Applicant submits herewith replacement sheets on which Figs. 2, 3, and 4 are amended to include labels for the diagrammatic blocks to indicate content or function. No new matter is involved.

Claim Objections

Claims 2-9 and 11-15 stand objected to because of typographical errors. Applicant submits that the amended claims included hereinabove have corrected the typographical errors indicated by the Examiner.

Claim 9 stands objected to because the acronym "ST-BICM" is not spelled out in the claim. Applicant submits that claim 9 is now suitably amended to include the spelling of the noted acronym.

Claim 10 stands objected to because the acronyms "SIC" and "PIC" are not spelled out in the claim. Claim 10 has been canceled, so this objection has been rendered moot.

Claim rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claims 2-4, 10, and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 2-4 and 12-14 are amended to provide proper antecedent basis. Applicant also submits that claims 11-14 are amended to clarify the features of the claims for the Examiner. Claim 15 is canceled, and therefore, this rejection of claim 15 has been rendered moot.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

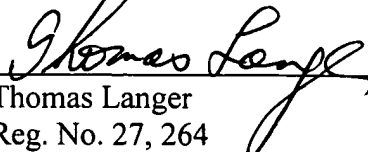
Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-9, 11-14 and 16 of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Thomas Langer at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

Respectfully submitted,
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By


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